

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 063800
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 MCT-01 SY-05 SSM-03 IO-13 /070 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:LPOPE:PDW
APPROVED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER
NEA/P:RUNDELAND

-----092234 132030Z /43

O 132019Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE IN REACTION TO TERRORIST RAID

REF: BEIRUT 1318

1. FOLLOWING IS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR DEPARTMENT
SPOKESMAN MARCH 13:

Q. IS THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT URGING RESTRAINT ON
THE ISRAELIS IN REACTION TO THE PALESTINIAN TERRORIST
ATTACK?

A. -- THE PRESIDENT HAS EXPRESSED OUR HORROR AT THIS
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WANTON ACT OF TERRORISM. WE CONDEMN THIS SENSELESS
VIOLENCE AND SYMPATHIZE WITH ISRAEL IN ITS SORROW FOR THE
INNOCENT VICTIMS.

-- THIS TERRORIST ACT OBVIOUSLY PRESENTS ISRAEL WITH A
VERY PAINFUL AND SERIOUS DILEMMA. IT HAS LEGITIMATE
SECURITY INTERESTS WHICH MUST BE PROTECTED; AT THE SAME

TIME, NO ONE WANTS TO ADD TO THE SUFFERING AND LOSS OF INNOCENT LIVES ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD.

-- I AM NOT GOING TO GET INTO THE DETAILS OF OUR DIPLOMATIC CONTACT WITH ISRAEL OR ANY OTHER GOVERNMENT IN THE AREA.

-- FOR OUR PART, LET ME MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- THIS ACT OF VIOLENCE IS AIMED AT UNDERMINING THE EFFORTS TO REACH A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT OF THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT.

-- ACTS SUCH AS THESE ONLY INCREASE TENSIONS AND CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE OF BITTERNESS NOT CONDUCTIVE TO NEGOTIATIONS FOR A GENUINE PEACE SETTLEMENT.

-- WE DO NOT INTEND TO ALLOW THIS ACT TO ACHIEVE ITS AIM OF UNDERMINING THE PEACE PROCESS. OUR EFFORTS WILL CONTINUE, AND WE HOPE ALL THOSE COMMITTED TO A COMPREHENSIVE AND JUST SETTLEMENT WILL ALSO KEEP THEIR EYES ON THIS GOAL.

Q. DO YOU BELIEVE THE TERRORIST RAID WAS AS MUCH DIRECTED AGAINST PRESIDENT SADAT'S INITIATIVE AS AGAINST ISRAEL? DO YOU SEE IT UNDERMINING THAT INITIATIVE?

A. -- I HAVE SAID THAT THIS TERRORIST ACT IS AIMED AT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNDERMINING ALL EFFORTS TO REACH A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST. -

-- OBVIOUSLY, THAT INCLUDES PRESIDENT SADAT'S COURAGEOUS INITIATIVE FOR RECONCILIATION BETWEEN THE ARABS AND ISRAEL. -

-- WE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THAT INITIATIVE, AND HOPE THAT THE PARTIES TO THE PEACE PROCESS WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TOWARD A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT, AND NOT ALLOW THIS ACT TO ACHIEVE ITS DESTRUCTIVE AIM. VANCE

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PAGE 01 STATE 063800
ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /015 R

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DRAFTED BY:IO/UNP:JPLORENZ

APPROVED BY:IO/TBROWN

-----009912 170255Z /61

R 161530Z MAR 78

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INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 4439

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 063800

ACTION BEIRUT AMMAN CAIRO DAMASCUS TEL AVIV DATED MAR 13:

QTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 063800

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, THE PRESS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, TERRORISTS, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE
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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780375/aaaaclef.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Content Flags:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
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Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: PINT, SOPN, LE, US, FATAH
To: BEIRUT AMMAN MULTIPLE
Type: TE
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Review Markings:
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